

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERN 01856 030956Z

15
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 ITF-05 AID-05 IO-10 VO-03 SCA-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /094 W
----- 013519

R 021651Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 642

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERN 1856

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, VS, SZ
SUBJECT: SWISS REACT TO END OF VIETNAM WAR

1. SVN AMBASSADOR ANH WAS GIVEN JUST A FEW HOURS BY GOS ON APRIL 30 TO CLEAR OUT FROM HIS EMBASSY AND WAS PERMITTED LESS THAN 24 HOURS TO CLOSE HIS RESIDENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS STERN MEASURE WAS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR WHO WAS ACCREDITED IN BERN ONLY ONE WEEK AGO. GOS WOULD PROBABLY ALSO HAVE IN MIND FACT THAT IT STILL HAS 16 NATIONALS (INCLUDING FOUR EMBASSY PERSONNEL) IN SAIGON, AND WANTS TO KEEP ITS EMBASSY OPERATING THERE.

2. FEDERAL COUNCIL ON APRIL 30 STATED THAT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY IT WOULD PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION AND STORAGE IN SWITZERLAND OF GOLD ORIGINATING FROM VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. (THERE HAD BEEN PRESS RUMORS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HAD ATTEMPTED BUT FAILED TO SEND GOLD OUT OF SAIGON TO SWITZERLAND.)

3. SWISS MEDIA REACTION TO END OF WAR WAS EXTENSIVE. GVN'S FALL WAS WIDELY BLAMED ON THE CORRUPTION AND INNER
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERN 01856 030956Z

WEAKNESSES OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT, NOT ON INSUFFICIENT

US EFFORT OR SUPPORT. SEVERAL OBSERVERS NOTED THAT POPULAR UPRISING DID NOT OCCUR, NOR DID VIETNAMESE, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, TURN ON US PERSONNEL. MOST FELT THAT US INTERVENTION WAS AN ILL-STARRED, FUTILE UNDERTAKING FROM VERY BEGINNING WHICH OVERLOOKED DEEP-SEATED VIETNAMESE NATIONALIST ASPIRATIONS. SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING NEUE ZURCHER ZEITUNG, COMMENTED THAT US PARTICIPATION HAD NOT BEEN IN VAIN, CITING GREATLY IMPROVED POLITICAL/ECONOMIC CLIMATE IN OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES COMPARED WITH 1965. JOURNAL DE GENEVE GAVE AMERICANS GREAT CREDIT FOR "THE COURAGE TO CONDUCT THE TOTAL RETREAT FROM VIETNAM WITHOUT LETTING THEMSELVES BE INFLUENCED BY SARCASTIC REMARKS FROM ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, UTTERED BY THE LEFT AS WELL AS THE RIGHT, DOUBTING THEIR STRENGTH, THEIR DETERMINATION AND ALMOST THEIR RIGHT TO DO WHAT THEY DEEMED CORRECT TO DO."

4. NOTEWORTHY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO COMMENTARIES WHATEVER CLAIMING THAT DEBACLE IN VIETNAM MIGHT AFFECT CREDIBILITY OF US POSITION IN WESTERN EUROPE. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECULATION ABOUT VALIDITY OF DOMINO THEORY WITH RESPECT ESPECIALLY TO THAILAND, MOST EDITORIALS HAVE FOCUSSED ON ANTICIPATED RIVALRY BETWEEN MOSCOW AND PEKING FOR INFLUENCE IN VIETNAM. MOST OBSERVERS HERE FELT THAT VIETNAMESE NATIONALISM WILL FACE CONSIDERABLE TRIALS IN FACE OF EXPECT CHINESE PUSH FOR DOMINANT POSITION.
DOMINICK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, GOLD SMUGGLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERN01856
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750156-0175
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750584/aaaacyls.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWISS REACT TO END OF VIETNAM WAR
TAGS: PDIP, VS, SZ, (THIEU, NGUYEN VAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006